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566.38877X00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: T. TAMURA , et al.  
Application No.: 09/635,217  
Filed: August 10, 2000  
For: AN EXTERNAL STORAGE DEVICE USING NON-VOLATILE SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY  
Art Unit: 2186  
Examiner: P. M. BATAILLE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 23, 2005  
(Monday)

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached Form SB/08/A for the Examiner's consideration.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted, on information and belief, before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits following the filing of an RCE on September 24, 2004. In addition, the following certification specified in 37 CFR § 1.97(e) is provided:

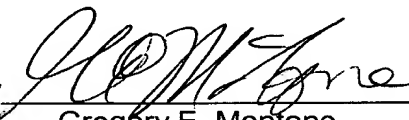
"On information and belief, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement."

To the extent the documents listed on the attached Form SB/08/A are not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by: an English language version or translation of the foreign patent office report citing the documents and English language Abstract of the documents.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (566.38877X00) or credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
**ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP**

By   
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Gregory E. Montone  
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GEM/dks

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/635,217
				Filing Date	8/10/2000
				First Named Inventor	T. TAMURA et al
				Art Unit	2186
				Examiner Name	P. M. BATAILLE
				Attorney Docket Number	566.38877X00
Sheet	1	of	1		

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> –Number <sup>4</sup> –Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP 62-237548	10-17-1987	T. SHINYA et al		AB
		JP-08-272925	10-18-1996	S. FUJIOKA	(=USP 5,719,387)	AB
		JP-11-110293	04-23-1999	A. HAMAKAWA	(=USP 5,881,002)	AB
		JP-08-203292	08-09-1996	W. TOSHIYUKI		AB

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

*If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.*